

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/645,323

Examiner

Alexander H. Taningco

Applicant(s)

GREGERSON ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination (2/14/2006).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 2/14/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/14/2006 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 2/14/2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3 and 5-27 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In re independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-3, 5-12, and 27, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a method of imaging an object using radiation comprising in combination with the rest of the claim limitations, the steps of, obtaining projection data from the at least one real detector array, the at least one real detector array obtaining projection data at two or more positions on the gantry, and having a

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geometry that is neither equilinear nor equiangular and, reprojecting the projection data on to a virtual detector array that has a geometry that is either equilinear or equiangular as recited by claim 1. Dependent claims 2,3,5-12, and 27 are allowable by virtue of their dependency.

In re independent claim 13 and dependent claims 14-23 and 28, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a system for imaging an object using radiation in combination with the rest of the claim limitations, comprising, at least one real detector array that obtains projection data at two or more positions on the gantry, and has a geometry that is neither equilinear nor equiangular and, a data processor for reprojecting the projection data onto a virtual detector array that is either equilinear or equiangular as recited by claim 13. Dependent claims 14-23 and 28 are allowable by virtue of their dependency.

In re independent claim 24, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a system for imaging an object using radiation, comprising the means for obtaining projection data from at least one real detector array, the at least one real detector array obtaining projection data at two or more positions, and having a geometry that is neither equilinear nor equiangular, and the means reprojecting the projection data on to a virtual detector array that has a geometry that is equiangular as recited by claim 24.

In re independent claim 25 and dependent claim 26, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a method of imaging an object using radiation in combination with the rest of the claim limitations, comprising the steps of: obtaining projection data from at least one real detector array, the at least one real detector array obtaining projection

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data at two or more positions, and having a geometry that is neither equilinear nor equiangular and reprojecting the projection data onto a virtual detector array having an equiangular geometry as recited by claim 25. Dependent claim 26 is allowable by virtue of their dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

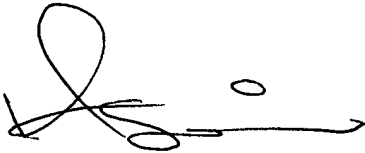
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander H. Taningco whose telephone number is (571) 272-8048. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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EDWARD J. GLICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER